Graphite ore

4223. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRU-TT1NA.N: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on mining.and processing of graphite c;e available a Sivagangai in Tamil Nadu:

(b) if so, the detail's thereof;

(c) the total quantity of graphite ore available at Sivagangai and the total area in which the ore is available;

(d) whether some foreign countries like West Germany and some foreign banks are interested to invest on this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for the delay in starting the mining process and setting of industries using Sivagangai graphite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM * SINGH YADAV): (a) and (fo) Tamil Nadu Minerals limited (TAMIN), an undertaking of the State Government of Tamil' Nadu, has been granted a mining lease for graphite in Pudupatti etc. villages of Sivaraganga taluk of Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan district of Tamil Nadu for a period of 20 years from 1987. TAMIN has planned to set up at Sivaganga a 100 per cent Export Oriented Graphite Beneficiation Unit with a capacity of 9240 toanes of graphite concentrates at a capi-taj investment of about Rs. 15 crores.

(c) The total recoverable reserves of graphite in the area leased out to TAMIN covering 242.5 hectares is about a lakh tonnes analysing, 10-40 per cent carbon. The total area of mineralisation is re-sported to extend for a strike length of 5.2 km. and width of 150 metres.

(d) to (f) The Graphite Beneficiation Plant of TAMIN was orginally designed by M/s. Humboldt Wedag of West Ger many. Subsequently, M/s. Engineers India Limited were engaged for this project. The plant is yet to commence production .

Exploitation of granite deposits

4224. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rich gra nite deposits have been located in Raju-palem Lakshmipuram areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Indian as well as foreign industrialists visited the area to strike a deal for the exploitation of the granite deposits;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether any of Indian/foreign in-dustrialist has been permitted to exploit the granite deposits; if so, what are the terms and conditions, if any, laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reserves of minerals fa Madhya Pradesh

4225. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Madhya Pradesh thousands of hectares of land containing minerals hag been reserved ex clusively for public sector undertakings of the Central and State Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Public Sector Usdertakings have not acquired or used vast areas containing minerals in the State for the last many years;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to auction or lease such areas to Private Sector in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasoss therefor?